

out choice of rank or mind, and with whom the subjects of conversation are only horses, drinking-matches, bawdy-houses, and in terms most vulgar. In fact, he never associated with a man of sense. He has not a single idea of justice, morality, religion, or of the rights of men or any anxiety for the opinion of the world. He carries that indifference for fame SO' far, that he probably would not be hurt if he was to lose his throne, provided he could be assured of having always meat, horses and women. (To John Jay, written in Paris, 1789. F. V., 62.)

PROFESSION OF POLITICAL FAITH.—I do with sincere zeal wish an inviolable preservation of our present Federal Constitution, according to the true sense in which it was adopted by the States, that in which it was advocated by its friends, and not that which its enemies apprehended, who therefore became its enemies; and I am opposed to the monarchising its features by the forms of its administration with a view to conciliate a first transition to a President and Senate for life, and from that to- a hereditary tenure of these offices and thus to worm out the elective principle. I am for preserving to the States the powers not yielded by them to the Union, and to the Legislature of the Union its constitutional share in the division of the powers; and I am not for transferring all the powers of the States to the general government, and all those of that government to the executive branch. I am for a government rigorously frugal and simple, applying all the possible savings of the public revenue to the discharge of the national debt, and not for a multiplication of officers and salaries merely to make partisans and for

increasing by every device the public debt on the principle of its being a public blessing. I am for relying, for internal defense, on our militia solely, till actual invasion, and for such a naval force only as may protect our coasts and harbors from such depredations as we have experienced; and not for a standing army in time of peace, which may overawe the public sentiment; nor for a navy which by its own expenses and the external wars in which it will implicate us, will grind us with public burthens and sink us under them. I am for free commerce with all nations; political connection with none; and